

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:53 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill. In his remarks, he referred to Peter Ackerman, chairman of the board, Freedom House; President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia; Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; senior Al Qaida associate Abu Musab Al Zarqawi; President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria; former President Charles Taylor of Liberia, who was arrested on March 29 in Nigeria on United Nations war crimes charges; President Bashar al-Asad

of Syria; President Mahmud Ahmadi-nejad of Iran; President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia; President Hu Jintao of China; Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan; former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; President Vicente Fox Quesada of Mexico; and Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada. Participants referred to Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom; and Gamal Mubarak, son of President Mohammed Hosni Mubarak of Egypt.

Exchange With Reporters in Cancun, Mexico March 30, 2006

Jill Carroll

Q. Sir, do you have a reaction to Jill Carroll's release?

The President. Thank God.

Q. What do you know about why she is released?

The President. I'm really grateful she's released, and I want to thank those who worked hard for her release, and we're glad she's alive.

It's good to see you all. And I'd like to make sure you work more than you play.

NOTE: The exchange began at 8:07 a.m. at the LeBlanc Spa and Resort. In his remarks, the President referred to American journalist Jill Carroll, who was taken hostage in Baghdad, Iraq, on January 7 and released on March 30.

Remarks Following a Tour of the Chichen-Itza Archaeological Ruins With President Vicente Fox Quesada of Mexico and Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada in Chichen-Itza, Mexico March 30, 2006

[At this point, President Fox spoke in Spanish, and no translation was provided.]

President Bush. Mr. President, thank you very much for your hospitality. This is a good start to a very important series of discussions. It is an honor to be here with the Prime Minister of Canada as well. We've got vital relations that will matter to the future of our people. And I look forward to the discussions.

And I want to thank you for letting us begin our very important meetings at this very significant historical site. And I congratulate our guide, and I want to thank those who have worked hard to make sure this important part of history is accessible and is available for people to understand the past, so we can better understand the future.

So, Mr. President, thank you for having us.